(c) if so, the details therof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Increasing Rail Fractures

1841. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 42 dated 28-4-93 given in the Rajya Sabha and state:

(a) what is the average time it takes to fix a fracture after detection;

(b) whether it is a a fact that antiquated methods of replacing fractures on rail tracks are followed, leading to long delays for passengers;

(c) whether there is any programme to upgrade the type of rails used by Indian Railways; and

(d) if not, in what manner the railways propose to reduce the increasing number of rail track fractures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) The time taken to repair the fracture generally depends upon its type and location. Normally, it does not take more than two hours to replace the fractured rails and restore the traffic. However, in many cases where delay is anticipated, temporary repairs are carried out and traffic restored at restricted speed.

(b) No, Sir, The latest standard established method is followed.

(c) The track structure on Indian Railways is being upgraded on the basis of intensity of traffic and speeds. Rails of higher weight and ultimate tensile strength are being increasingly used now by the Railways.

(d) Does not arise.

Special Train

1842. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of special trains run between Delhi and Madras, Delhi and Trivandrum in summer during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of special trains Government propose to run this year between Delhi and Madras, and Trivandrum and Delhi; and

(c) whether Government would run some special trains between Madurai and Delhi during summer to clear the summer rush; if not what other steps are being taken to help the long distance passengers who are unable to get railway reseravtions at New Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAY. (SHRI K. C. LENKA). (a) and (b) Nil.

(c) No, Sir. However, in order to clear the rush towards the South a weekly Special train between Hazrat Nizamuddin and Alleppy is being run during this Summer.

Expenditure for Passenger Amenities

1843. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI IQBAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of total outlay, the Railways are spending for passenger amenities during last three years;